-continued

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Ser Ser Ser Leu Gly Thr Gln Thr Tyr Ile Cys Asn Val Asn His Lys
        195                 200                 205

Pro Ser Asn Thr Lys Val Asp Lys Lys Val Glu Pro Lys Ser Cys Asp
    210                 215                 220

Lys Thr His Thr Cys Pro Pro Cys Pro Ala Pro Glu Leu Leu Gly Gly
225                 230                 235                 240

Pro Ser Val Phe Leu Phe Pro Pro Lys Pro Lys Asp Thr Leu Met Ile
                245                 250                 255

Ser Arg Thr Pro Glu Val Thr Cys Val Val Val Asp Val Ser His Glu
            260                 265                 270

Asp Pro Glu Val Lys Phe Asn Trp Tyr Val Asp Gly Val Glu Val His
        275                 280                 285

Asn Ala Lys Thr Lys Pro Arg Glu Glu Gln Tyr Asn Ser Thr Tyr Arg
    290                 295                 300

Val Val Ser Val Leu Thr Val Leu His Gln Asp Trp Leu Asn Gly Lys
305                 310                 315                 320

Glu Tyr Lys Cys Lys Val Ser Asn Lys Ala Leu Pro Ala Pro Ile Glu
                325                 330                 335

Lys Thr Ile Ser Lys Ala Lys Gly Gln Pro Arg Glu Pro Gln Val Tyr
            340                 345                 350

Thr Leu Pro Pro Ser Arg Glu Glu Met Thr Lys Asn Gln Val Ser Leu
        355                 360                 365

Thr Cys Leu Val Lys Gly Phe Tyr Pro Ser Asp Ile Ala Val Glu Trp
    370                 375                 380

Glu Ser Asn Gly Gln Pro Glu Asn Asn Tyr Lys Thr Thr Pro Pro Val
385                 390                 395                 400

Leu Asp Ser Asp Gly Ser Phe Phe Leu Tyr Ser Lys Leu Thr Val Asp
                405                 410                 415

Lys Ser Arg Trp Gln Gln Gly Asn Val Phe Ser Cys Ser Val Met His
            420                 425                 430

Glu Ala Leu His Asn His Tyr Thr Gln Lys Ser Leu Ser Leu Ser Pro
        435                 440                 445

Gly
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What is claimed is:

1. A method for purifying a polypeptide from a composition comprising the polypeptide and a contaminant, which method comprises the following steps performed sequentially:

(a) loading the composition onto an ion exchange material;

(b) washing the ion exchange material with wash buffer using a multi-slope gradient, wherein the multi-slope gradient comprises two or more segments of linear salt gradients with different slopes wherein the slope is greater in the first segment than in any additional segments, the increase in the salt concentration of the wash buffer is greater in the first segment of the multi-slope gradient wash than in subsequent segments, and each segment of the multi-slope wash ends when a predetermined polypeptide concentration is measured in the flowthrough, wherein each segment of the multi-slope gradient has a progressively shallower slope; and

(c) eluting the polypeptide from the ion exchange material.

2. The method of claim **1**, additionally comprising the step between steps (b) and (c) of washing the column with from 0.4 to 1 column volumes of wash buffer.

3. The method of claim **2** wherein the wash buffer has the composition of the wash buffer at the end of step (b).

4. The method of claim **1**, **2**, or **3**, further comprising subjecting the composition comprising the polypeptide to one or more further purification steps so as to obtain a homogenous preparation of the polypeptide.

5. The method of claim **1**, wherein the polypeptide is an antibody.

6. The method of claim **5**, wherein the antibody is an anti-HER2 antibody.

7. The method of claim **6**, wherein the anti-HER2 antibody comprises the light chain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the heavy chain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

8. The method of claim **7**, wherein the antibody is rhuMAb HER2 comprising the light chain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, and the heavy chain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein the contaminants comprise a deamidated variant having Asn30 in CDR1 of either or both of the light chain variable regions (VL) converted to aspartate.

9. The method of claim **7** or **8**, wherein the multi-slope gradient comprises three segments.